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In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.(Currently Amended) A thermoplastic composition comprising:

from about 1 % by weight to 25 % by weight block copolymer having the formula (A-B)<sub>x</sub> or A-B-A where the A block comprises polyvinylarene, the B block comprises poly(monoalkenyl), and x is an integer of at least one;

from 45 % by weight to 75 % by weight superabsorbent polymer particles comprising polyacrylate and having a median particle diameter of from 20  $\mu\text{m}$  to 30  $\mu\text{m}$ ; and

from about 15 % by weight to about 40 % by weight plasticizing oil,  
and said composition having a viscosity of no greater than 100,000 centipoise at 300°F.

2.(Original) The thermoplastic composition of claim 1, further comprising surfactant.

3. (Previously Presented) The thermoplastic composition of claim 1, further comprising from about 1% by weight to about 5 % by weight surfactant.

4. (Original) The thermoplastic composition of claim 1, comprising from 60 % by weight to about 75 % by weight said superabsorbent polymer.

5. (Original) The thermoplastic composition of claim 1, wherein the block copolymer is selected from the group consisting of styrene-isoprene-styrene, styrene-ethylene-butylene-styrene, styrene-ethylene-propylene-styrene, styrene-butadiene-styrene and combinations thereof

6. (Original) The thermoplastic composition of claim 1, wherein said composition exhibits a water gel time of no greater than 2 minutes.

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7. (Original) The thermoplastic composition of claim 1, wherein said composition exhibits a water gel time of no greater than 1.5 minutes.

8. (Original) The thermoplastic composition of claim 1, wherein said composition exhibits a water gel time of no greater than 1 minute.

9. (Original) The thermoplastic composition of claim 1, wherein said composition exhibits a 0.9 % saline solution gel time of no greater than 4 hours.

10. (Original) The thermoplastic composition of claim 1, wherein said composition exhibits a 0.9 % saline solution gel time of no greater than 1 hour.

11. (Original) The thermoplastic composition of claim 1, wherein said composition exhibits a 0.9 % saline solution gel time of no greater than 25 minutes.

12. (Original) The thermoplastic composition of claim 1, wherein said composition exhibits a 0.9 % saline solution gel time of no greater than 10 minutes.

13. (Original) The thermoplastic composition of claim 1, wherein said composition exhibits a 0.9 % saline solution gel time of no greater than 5 minutes.

14. (Original) The thermoplastic composition of claim 1, wherein said composition exhibits an absorbent capacity of at least 60 g water/g of composition.

15. (Original) The thermoplastic composition of claim 1, wherein said composition exhibits an absorbent capacity of at least 70 g water/g of composition.

16. (Original) The thermoplastic composition of claim 1, wherein said composition exhibits an absorbent capacity of at least 90 g water/g of composition.

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17. (Original) The thermoplastic composition of claim 1, wherein said composition exhibits an absorbent capacity of at least 100 g water/g of composition.

18. (Original) The thermoplastic composition of claim 1, wherein said composition exhibits an absorbent capacity of at least 110 g water/g of composition.

19. (Original) The thermoplastic composition of claim 1, wherein said composition exhibits an absorbent capacity of at least 25 g 0.9 % saline solution/g of composition.

20. (Original) The thermoplastic composition of claim 1, wherein said composition exhibits an absorbent capacity of at least 30 g 0.9 % saline solution/g of composition.

21. (Original) The thermoplastic composition of claim 1, wherein said composition exhibits an absorbent capacity of at least 35 g 0.9 % saline solution/g of composition.

22. (Previously Presented) A thermoplastic composition comprising:  
block copolymer having the formula  $(A-B)^x$  or  $A-B-A$  where the A block comprises polyvinylarene, the B block comprises poly(monoalkenyl), and x is an integer of at least one;  
spherical superabsorbent particles comprising polyacrylate and having a median particle diameter of from 20  $\mu\text{m}$  to 30  $\mu\text{m}$ ; and  
plasticizing oil,  
said composition exhibiting water gel time of no greater than 2 minutes.

23. (Original) The thermoplastic composition of claim 22, wherein said block copolymer is selected from the group consisting of styrene-isoprene-styrene, styrene-ethylene-butylene-styrene, styrene-ethylene-propylene-styrene, styrene-butadiene-styrene and combinations thereof

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24. (Previously Presented) A thermoplastic composition comprising:  
block copolymer having the formula (A-B) $x$  or A-B-A where the A block comprises polyvinylarene, the B block comprises poly(monoalkenyl), and  $x$  is an integer of at least one;  
spherical superabsorbent particles comprising polyacrylate and having a median particle diameter of from 20  $\mu\text{m}$  to 30  $\mu\text{m}$ ; and  
plasticizing oil,  
said composition exhibiting a 0.9 % saline solution gel time of no greater than 1 hour.

25. (Previously Presented) A thermoplastic composition comprising:  
block copolymer having the formula (A-B) $x$  or A-B-A where the A block comprises polyvinylarene, the B block comprises poly(monoalkenyl), and  $x$  is an integer of at least one;  
spherical superabsorbent particles comprising polyacrylate and having a median particle diameter of from 20  $\mu\text{m}$  to 30  $\mu\text{m}$ ; and  
plasticizing oil,  
said composition exhibiting an absorbent capacity of at least 70 g water/g of composition.

26. (Previously Presented) A thermoplastic composition comprising:  
block copolymer having the formula (A-B) $x$  or A-B-A where the A block comprises polyvinylarene, the B block comprises poly(monoalkenyl), and  $x$  is an integer of at least one;  
spherical superabsorbent particles comprising polyacrylate and having a median particle diameter of from 20  $\mu\text{m}$  to 30  $\mu\text{m}$ ; and  
plasticizing oil,  
said composition exhibiting an absorbent capacity of at least 25 g 0.9 % aqueous saline solution/g of composition.

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27. (Previously Presented) A thermoplastic adhesive composition comprising:  
from about 1 % by weight to 25 % by weight block copolymer having the  
formula (A-B)<sub>x</sub> or A-B-A where the A block comprises polyvinylarene, the B  
block comprises poly(monoalkenyl), and x is an integer of at least one;  
from about 45 % by weight to about 75 % by weight superabsorbent  
polymer particles comprising polyacrylate and having a median particle diameter  
of from 20  $\mu\text{m}$  to 30  $\mu\text{m}$ ;  
tackifying agent; and  
from about 15% by weight to about 40% by weight plasticizing oil,  
said composition having a viscosity of no greater than 100,000 centipoise at  
300°F.

28. (Original) An absorbent article comprising:  
an absorbent core;  
the thermoplastic composition of claim 1 incorporated in said absorbent  
core.

29. (Original) An absorbent article comprising:  
an absorbent core; and  
the thermoplastic composition of claim 1 disposed on said absorbent core.

30. (Original) An absorbent article comprising:  
a liquid permeable sheet;  
a liquid impermeable barrier sheet;  
an absorbent element disposed between the liquid permeable sheet and the  
barrier sheet; and  
the thermoplastic composition of claim 1 disposed on at least one of said  
liquid permeable sheet, said barrier sheet and said absorbent element.

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31. (Original) An absorbent article according to claim 32 selected from the group consisting of disposable diapers, sanitary napkins, wound care products, wipes, towels and tissues.

32. (Original) An absorbent article comprising:

a liquid permeable sheet;  
a liquid impermeable barrier sheet;  
an absorbent element disposed between the liquid permeable sheet and the barrier sheet; and  
the thermoplastic composition of claim 1 incorporated in said absorbent element.

33. (Previously Presented) A thermoplastic composition comprising:

block copolymer having the formula  $(A-B)^x$  or  $A-B-A$  where the A block comprises polyvinylarene, the B block comprises poly(monoalkenyl), and x is an integer of at least one;

spherical superabsorbent particles comprising polyacrylate; and  
plasticizing oil,

said composition exhibiting a water gel time of no greater than 2 minutes, a viscosity of no greater than 100,000 centipoise at 300°F and a wet tensile strength of at least 15 g/in<sup>2</sup>.

34. (Previously Presented) The thermoplastic composition of claim 33, wherein said composition exhibits a 0.9 % saline solution gel time of no greater than 1 hour.

35. (Previously Presented) The thermoplastic composition of claim 33, wherein said composition exhibits a 0.9 % saline solution gel time of no greater than 10 minutes.

36. (Previously Presented) The thermoplastic composition of claim 33, wherein said composition exhibits a water gel time of no greater than 1.5 minutes, a viscosity of no greater than 30,000 centipoise at 300°F and a wet tensile strength of at least 40 g/in<sup>2</sup>.

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37. (Previously Presented) The thermoplastic composition of claim 33, wherein said composition exhibits an absorption capacity of at least 70 g water/g composition.

38. (Previously Presented) A thermoplastic composition comprising:

block copolymer having the formula (A-B) $x$  or A-B-A where the A block comprises polyvinylarene, the B block comprises poly(monoalkenyl), and  $x$  is an integer of at least one;

from about 45 % by weight to about 75 % by weight superabsorbent polymer particles that include polyacrylate; and

from about 15 % by weight to about 40 % by weight plasticizing oil,

said composition exhibiting a water gel time of no greater than 2 minutes, and an absorption capacity of at least 70 g water/g composition and at least 10 g 0.9% saline solution/g composition,

said composition having a viscosity of no greater than 100,000 centipoise at 300°F.

39. (Previously Presented) A thermoplastic composition comprising:

block copolymer having the formula (A-B) $x$  or A-B-A where the A block comprises polyvinylarene, the B block comprises poly(monoalkenyl), and  $x$  is an integer of at least one;

from about 45 % by weight to about 75 % by weight superabsorbent polymer particles comprising polyacrylate; and

from about 15 % by weight to about 40 % by weight plasticizer,

said composition exhibiting a viscosity of no greater than about 65,000 centipoise at 300°F.

40. (Previously Presented) A thermoplastic composition comprising:

thermoplastic polymer selected from the group consisting of amorphous polyolefins, crystalline polyolefins, polylactides, polyvinyl alcohols, copolymers,

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polyesters, poly(ethylene oxide) polyether amides, polyester ether block copolymers, polyamides, and combinations thereof;

from about 45 % by weight to about 75 % by weight superabsorbent polymer particles comprising polyacrylate; and

from about 15 % by weight to about 40 % by weight plasticizer,  
said composition exhibiting a viscosity of no greater than about 65,000 centipoise at 300°F.

41.(Previously Presented) A thermoplastic composition comprising:

from about 1 % by weight to 25 % by weight block copolymer having the formula (A-B) $x$  or A-B-A where the A block comprises polyvinylarene, the B block comprises poly(monoalkenyl), and  $x$  is an integer of at least one;

from 60 % by weight to 75 % by weight superabsorbent polymer particles comprising polyacrylate and having a median particle diameter of from 20  $\mu\text{m}$  to 30  $\mu\text{m}$ ; and

from about 15 % by weight to about 40 % by weight plasticizing oil.